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(72) Inventor: **Jasani, Yogen  
Prescot, Merseyside L34 1PR (GB)**

(74) Representative: **Walker, Ross Thomson et al  
Potts, Kerr & Co.  
15 Hamilton Square  
Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 6BR (GB)**

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(71) Applicant: **Jasani, Yogen  
Prescot, Merseyside L34 1PR (GB)**

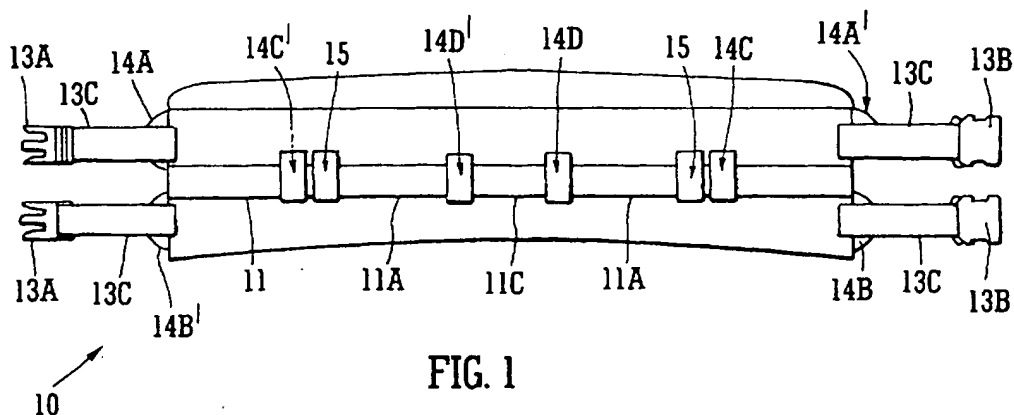
(54) **A lifting and supporting aid**

(57) The present invention provides a belt (10) that, in use, is attachable around the midriff of a person's body and can be used as an aid to lift or support the person, the belt (10) including:

fastening means (13) that releasably fasten the belt (10) around the person's midriff;  
handle means (11A, 11B) that when gripped by a third party can aid with the lifting and support of the person;  
means (14A, 14B, 14C, 14D; 14A', 14B', 14C', 14D')

for receiving at least one first strap (30, 31) member such that the belt can be converted into a harness which is connectable to a first lifting or support apparatus (40) that can lift or support the person from above; and

connecting means (15) that, in use, are connectable to a support member that can support a further portion of the person's body and/or to at least one second strap member which is attachable to a second lifting or support apparatus that can lift or support the person from the side.



**FIG. 1**

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 00 30 8997

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  |  |  |  |
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| Category   | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                            | Relevant to claim                                      | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Incl.7) |
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| Y  | * page 7, line 14 - page 8, line 5;<br>figures *   | 3,6,13   |  |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims   |  |  |  |
| Place of search<br><b>THE HAGUE</b>  |  | Date of completion of the search<br><b>8 July 2002</b> | Examiner<br><b>Godot, T</b>                |
| <p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br/> Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br/> A : technological background<br/> O : non-written disclosure<br/> P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br/> E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br/> D : document cited in the application<br/> L : document cited for other reasons<br/> &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> |  |  |  |

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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